

Applic. No. 09/878,665

Amdt. dated October 1, 2003

Reply to Office action of May 21, 2003

Claim AmendmentsE2 Claim 1 (cancelled)

Claim ²~~2~~ (previously-presented): The dish rack according to claim ~~22~~, wherein at least some of said legs are pivotable into a horizontal position, a vertical position, and oblique positions different from said horizontal position and said vertical position.

Claim ³~~3~~ (previously-presented): The dish rack according to claim ²~~2~~, wherein at least some of said legs form a set-down surface for hollow dishes when at least some of said legs are pivoted into at least one of said oblique positions.

Claim ⁴~~4~~ (previously-presented): The dish rack according to claim ²~~2~~, wherein at least some of said legs form a set-down surface when at least some of said legs are pivoted into an oblique position half-way between said horizontal position and said vertical position.

Claim ⁵~~5~~ (previously-presented): The dish rack according to claim ²~~2~~, wherein at least some of said legs form stops for retaining hollow dishes in said horizontal position.

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contd
Claim ~~6~~⁴ (previously-presented): The dish rack according to claim ~~2~~², wherein at least some of said legs form stops for retaining hollow dishes in at least one of said oblique positions.

Claim ~~7~~⁹ (previously-presented): The dish rack according to claim ~~22~~¹, further comprising:

further prongs having one leg;

said further prongs and said prongs being alternating disposed on said base wire; and

said two legs of said prongs forming a stop for retaining hollow dishes.

Claim ~~8~~⁸ (previously-presented): The dish rack according to claim ~~25~~⁷, further comprising:

further prongs having one leg;

said further prongs and said prongs being alternating disposed on said base wire; and

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said two legs of said prongs forming a stop for retaining
hollow dishes.

Conto
Claim ¹⁰ (currently-amended). The dish rack according to claim
~~22~~, wherein said prongs having ~~at least~~ two legs are L-shaped.

Claims 10-15 (cancelled)

Claim ¹²~~16~~ (currently-amended). The dish rack according to
claim ~~24~~, wherein said prongs having ~~at least~~ two legs are L-
shaped.

Claim ¹³~~17~~ (previously-presented): The dish rack according to
claim ¹²~~16~~, wherein said retainer is pivotable into a horizontal
position, a vertical position, and oblique positions different
from said horizontal position and said vertical position.

Claim ¹⁴~~18~~ (previously-presented): The dish rack according to
claim ¹³~~17~~, wherein a least one of said legs forms a set-down
surface for hollow dishes when said retainer is pivoted into
at least one of said oblique positions.

Claim ¹⁵~~19~~ (previously-presented): The dish rack according to
claim ¹³~~17~~, wherein at least one of said legs forms a stop for

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retaining hollow dishes in at least one of said horizontal position and said oblique positions.

E2
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Claim ~~20~~¹⁶ (previously-presented): The dish rack according to claim ~~24~~¹¹, further comprising:

further prongs having one leg;

said further prongs and said prongs being alternating disposed on said base wire; and

said two legs of said prongs forming a stop for retaining hollow dishes.

[Claim 21 (cancelled)]

Claim ~~22~~¹ (previously-presented): A dish rack for accommodating dishes, comprising:

a plurality of base wires forming a dish rack base; and

a plurality of prongs each having two legs with two free ends and an intersection connecting said legs to one another, each of said prongs being connected to a respective one of said base wires in a vicinity of said intersection, and distal from

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E2
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said free ends, and at least some of said prongs being
pivotal between different pivot positions about a respective
longitudinal axis of one of said base wires.

Claim 23 (previously-presented): In a household dishwasher, a
dish rack for accommodating dishes, the dish rack comprising:

a plurality of base wires forming a dish rack base; and

a plurality of prongs each having two legs with two free ends
and an intersection connecting said legs to one another, each
of said prongs being connected to a respective one of said
base wires in a vicinity of said intersection, and distal from
said free ends, and at least some of said prongs being
pivotal between different pivot positions about a respective
longitudinal axis of one of said base wires.

Claim 24 (previously-presented): A dish rack for
accommodating dishes, comprising:

at least one base wire and a plurality of prongs forming a
retainer;

said plurality of prongs each having two legs and an
intersection connecting said legs to one another, each of said

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prongs being connected to said base wire in a vicinity of said intersection and distal from said free ends, for securing dishware, and at least some of said prongs being pivotable between different pivot positions about a longitudinal axis of said base wire.

Claim ~~25~~ ⁷ (currently-amended). The dish rack according to claim ~~22~~ ¹, wherein some of said prongs are pivotable into three functional dish rack positions, including:

a first functional dish rack position in which a first one of said legs is substantially perpendicular to a plane defined by said dish rack base and a second one of said legs is substantially parallel to said ~~dish rack base plane~~;

a second functional dish rack position in which said first and second legs enclose acute angles with said ~~dish rack base plane~~; and

a third functional dish rack position in which said first leg is substantially parallel to said ~~dish rack base plane~~ and said second leg is substantially perpendicular to said ~~dish rack base plane~~.